

REMARKS

35 USC § 112 Rejection of Claims 8 and 16

The Examiner rejected claims 8 and 16 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner states that the claim that the "non-conducting film layer" is aluminum is contradicting because aluminum is conductive.

The meaning of "non-conductive film" in the specification is not the typical meaning of non-conductive that is adopted by the Examiner. The specification describes a laminate with a conductive layer that "will become the functional outer layer of a multi-level printed circuit board." See Para. 21 of the Specification. The other "non-conductive layer" does not become the functional conductive element of a printed circuit board, but is discarded after manufacture. See Para. 28 of the Specification. Within the specification of this invention "non-conductive layer" means a layer of film that does not become a functional conductive element of a printed circuit board. This meaning of the term is supported by the inclusion of aluminum, which as noted by the Examiner is electrically conductive but which is not part of the functional conductive element of the printed circuit board, in the list of materials for use in the "non-conductive layer."

The amendments to the specification included in this paper are intended to clarify the meaning of the term "non-conductive film layer" in the application as a layer that is discarded and is not a functional conductive element of the printed circuit board. In light of these remarks and amendments, Applicant respectfully asserts claims 8 and 16 are not indefinite and requests that this objection be removed.

35 USC § 102 Rejection of Claims 1-4, 7-8, 9-11 and 15-18

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 7-8, 9-11 and 15-18 as being anticipated by Sato et al (US 3932250). Sato teaches the inclusion of the press plate inside the laminated component. See col. 4 lines 51-62. It only teaches press plates that are between the conducting layer and the release layer. The present application teaches the use of an external press plate in addition to the separator element of the laminate. See Para. 27 of the Specification and Figure 3.

Independent claims 1, 2 and 9 have been amended by this paper to include a press plate disposed adjacent to the non-conductive film layer of the laminated component. Claim 17 already contained the press plate disposed adjacent to the non-conductive film layer of the laminated component. This configuration is not taught by Sato and thus the independent claims as amended, and their dependent claims, are not anticipated by Sato because they all include the use of an external press plate in conjunction with the laminated product.

In light of these amendments it is respectfully requested that the Examiner remove this objection to the claims as amended.

35 USC § 103 Rejection of Claims 5-6 and 12-14

The Examiner rejected claims 5-6 and 12-14 as obvious over Sato in view of Backhaus or Johnston.

It is respectfully asserted that neither Sato, Backhaus or Johnston teach the use of a laminated component with an external press plate. All three references teach the use of a press plate that is contained within the laminated component. The claims, as amended by this paper, all recite the use of the laminated component with an external press plate. Therefore, the Sato, Backhaus and Johnston references do not recite all the elements of the claims herein and the claims, as amended by this paper, are therefore not obvious over Sato in view of Backhaus or Johnston. It is therefore respectfully requested that the Examiner remove this objection to the claims.

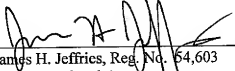
CONCLUSION

In light of the amendments and remarks in this paper, it is respectfully asserted that the claims are now in condition for allowance. Applicant requests that the Examiner remove the objections and place the application in condition for allowance and issuance.

Respectfully submitted,

LATHROP & GAGE LC

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Date


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